

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

1. THANKS FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON A FOLLOW-UP ON THE CSCE DIALOGUE. WE AGREE THAT SUCH A STEP IS NECESSARY AND WILL BE STAFFING OUT SOMETHING WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE MANY OF THE POINTS YOU RAISED. PART OF THE PROBLEM WILL BE IN COMING UP WITH SOMETHING WHICH WE CAN DO TO MEET SOVIET COMPLAINTS. IN THE HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE LEADING UP TO THE ELECTION WE THINK IT IMPRACTICAL TO PROPOSE CHANGES IN OUR POLICY ON VISAS FOR TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AND VISAS FOR WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AT THIS TIME.

2. AS YOU WILL GATHER FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO THE EFFECT THE AFRICAN SITUATION IS HAVING ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE MESSAGE YOU WILL BE RECEIVING URGING LOW KEY TREATMENT OF THE MARITIME AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY SHOULD BE SEEN IN THIS LIGHT. IT IS NOT SO CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH A QUESTION OF PUNISHMENT AS ONE OF VISIBILITY.

WE ARE LETTING THOSE WHO ORCHESTRATE THINGS KNOW IN ADVANCE WHAT IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AND WHAT KINDS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTACTS ARE IN PROSPECT. YOU MAY WANT TO KEEP THIS IN MIND IN YOUR REPORTING AL O.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT WE FOUND THE DOWNEY-GVISHIANI DISCUSSION OF WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT STRIKING AN OFF KEY NOTE. WE WILL BE SUGGESTING THAT THIS PROJECT MOVE BACK TO THE BACK BURNER AGAIN.

4. WE ARE COOPERATING IN A LARGER STUDY OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WITH A JANUARY 2 DEADLINE AND ANYTHING YOU HAVE IN THE WORKS ON SOVIET PERCEPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD BE WELCOME. KISSINGER

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